

Remarks:

Claims 1–27 were previously pending with claims 1, 10, 17, and 24 being independent. Claims 1-9, 13, 16, 17-23, 26, and 27 are presently canceled and claims 10, 14, 15, and 24 are currently amended. Therefore, claims 10-12, 14, 15, 24, and 25 are currently pending with claims 10 and 24 being independent.

In the Office Action dated October 5, 2006 (“OA”), claims 1-15, 17, and 27 were rejected and claims 16 and 26 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

The drawings were objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) because they did not show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. In particular, claim 17 and 27 included features not shown in the drawings. Therefore, claims 17 and 27 are presently canceled.

Claims 17-23 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Therefore, claims 17-23 and 27 are presently canceled.

Claims 1-4 and 7-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Fahl (6,824,423). Claims 1 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Odbert (4,940,424). Therefore, claims 1-5 and 7-9 are presently canceled.

Claims 10 and 13-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Watanabe (6,364,681). Claim 10 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 13 and claim 16, since the Examiner stated in the OA that claim 16 “...would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.” Claim 13 and 16 are presently canceled.

Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Odbert (4,940,424) in view of Bachman (6,582,248). Therefore, claim 6 is presently canceled.

Claims 24 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watanabe (6,364,681) in view of Bachman (6,582,248) and Engert (3,790,698). Claim 24 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 26, since the Examiner stated in

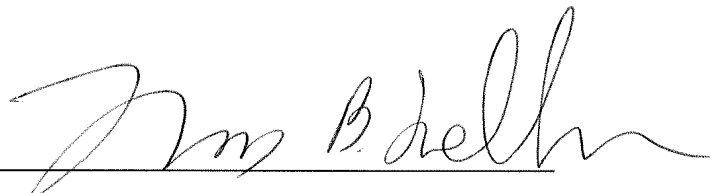
the OA that claim 26 "...would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims." Claim 26 is presently canceled.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 10-12, 14, 15, 24, and 25 are now in allowable condition and requests a Notice of Allowance.

In the event of further questions, the Examiner is urged to call the undersigned. Any additional fee which is due in connection with this amendment should be applied against our Deposit Account No. 19-0522.

Respectfully submitted,
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